

Senate File 289 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY QUIRMBACH, BEALL, BLACK,
WARNSTADT, FRAISE, DEARDEN,
WOOD, OLIVE, HANCOCK, SENG,
HORN, DVORSKY, DOTZLER,
KREIMAN, SCHMITZ, RAGAN,
STEWART, CONNOLLY, McCOY,
KIBBIE, SEYMOUR, McKINLEY,
HARTSUCH, and DANIELSON

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates
2 associated with military service, providing for special gold
3 star plates and distinguished service cross, navy cross, air
4 force cross, soldier's medal, sailor's medal, and airman's
5 medal special plates, establishing fees, and crediting fees
6 from the sale of certain special plates to the veterans
7 license fee fund.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

9 TLSB 2144XS 82

10 dea/je/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 35A.11, Code 2007, is amended to read
1 2 as follows:
1 3 35A.11 VETERANS LICENSE FEE FUND.
1 4 A veterans license fee fund is created in the state
1 5 treasury under the control of the commission. ~~The fund shall~~
~~1 6 include the fees credited by the treasurer of state from the~~
~~1 7 sale of special veteran license plates pursuant to section~~
~~1 8 321.34, subsection 13, paragraph "d".~~ Notwithstanding section
1 9 12C.7, interest or earnings on moneys in the veterans license
1 10 fee fund shall be credited to the veterans license fee fund.
1 11 Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the commission to be
1 12 used to fulfill the responsibilities of the commission. ~~The~~
~~1 13 fund shall include the fees credited by the treasurer of state~~
~~1 14 from the sale of the following special motor vehicle~~
~~1 15 registration plates:~~
1 16 1. Veteran special plates issued pursuant to section
1 17 321.34, subsection 13, paragraph "d".
1 18 2. National guard special plates issued pursuant to
1 19 section 321.34, subsection 16.
1 20 3. Pearl Harbor special plates issued pursuant to section
1 21 321.34, subsection 17.
1 22 4. Purple heart special plates issued pursuant to section
1 23 321.34, subsection 18.
1 24 5. United States armed forces retired special plates
1 25 issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 19.
1 26 6. Silver star and bronze star special plates issued
1 27 pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 20.
1 28 7. Distinguished service cross, navy cross, and air force
1 29 cross special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34,
1 30 subsection 20A.
1 31 8. Soldier's medal, sailor's medal, and airman's medal
1 32 special plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection
1 33 20B.
1 34 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 8, Code 2007, is
1 35 amended to read as follows:
2 1 8. ~~CONGRESSIONAL~~ MEDAL OF HONOR PLATES. The owner of a
2 2 motor vehicle subject to registration under section 321.109,
2 3 subsection 1, motorcycle, trailer, or motor truck who has been
2 4 awarded the ~~congressional~~ medal of honor may, upon written
2 5 application to the department, order special registration
2 6 plates which shall be red, white, and blue in color and shall
2 7 bear an emblem of the ~~congressional~~ medal of honor and an
2 8 identifying number. Each applicant applying for special

2 9 registration plates under this subsection may purchase only
2 10 one set of registration plates under this subsection. The
2 11 application is subject to approval by the department and the
2 12 special registration plates shall be issued to the applicant
2 13 in exchange for the registration plates previously issued to
2 14 the person. The special plates are subject to an annual
2 15 registration fee of fifteen dollars. The department shall
2 16 validate the special plates in the same manner as regular
2 17 registration plates are validated under this section. The
2 18 department shall not issue special registration plates until
2 19 service organizations in the state have furnished the
2 20 department either the special dies or the cost of the special
2 21 dies necessary for the manufacture of the special registration
2 22 plate.

2 23 The surviving spouse of a person who was issued special
2 24 plates under this subsection may continue to use the special
2 25 plates subject to registration of the special plates in the
2 26 surviving spouse's name and upon payment of the fifteen dollar
2 27 annual registration fee. If the surviving spouse remarries,
2 28 the surviving spouse shall return the special plates to the
2 29 department and the department shall issue regular registration
2 30 plates to the surviving spouse.

2 31 Sec. 3. Section 321.34, subsection 12A, paragraph a, Code
2 32 2007, is amended to read as follows:

2 33 a. The owner is eligible for, but has relinquished to the
2 34 department or the county treasurer or has not been issued,
2 35 congressional medal of honor, ex-prisoner of war, or legion of
3 1 merit special registration plates under this section, or
3 2 disabled veteran registration plates under section 321.105.

3 3 Sec. 4. Section 321.34, subsections 16, 17, 18, 19, and
3 4 20, Code 2007, are amended to read as follows:

3 5 16. NATIONAL GUARD SPECIAL PLATES. An owner referred to
3 6 in subsection 12 who is a member of the national guard, as
3 7 defined in chapter 29A, may, upon written application to the
3 8 department, order special registration plates with a national
3 9 guard processed emblem with the emblem designed by the
3 10 department in cooperation with the adjutant general which
3 11 emblem signifies that the applicant is a member of the
3 12 national guard. The application shall be approved by the
3 13 department in consultation with the adjutant general. The
3 14 special plate fees collected by the director under subsection
3 15 12, paragraph "a", from the issuance and annual validation of
3 16 letter-number designated and personalized national guard
3 17 plates shall be paid monthly to the treasurer of state and
3 18 credited to the road use tax fund. Notwithstanding section
3 19 423.43, and prior to the crediting of revenues to the road use
3 20 tax fund under section 423.43, subsection 1, paragraph "b",
3 21 the treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from those
3 22 revenues to the veterans license fee fund created in section
3 23 35A.11 the amount of the special fees collected in the

3 24 previous month for national guard plates. Special
3 25 registration plates with a national guard processed emblem
3 26 shall be surrendered, as provided in subsection 12, in
3 27 exchange for regular registration plates upon termination of
3 28 the owner's membership in the active national guard.
3 29 17. PEARL HARBOR SPECIAL PLATES. An owner referred to in
3 30 subsection 12 who was at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as a member of
3 31 the armed services of the United States on December 7, 1941,
3 32 may, upon written application to the department, order special
3 33 registration plates with a Pearl Harbor processed emblem. The
3 34 emblem shall be designed by the department in consultation
3 35 with service organizations. The application is subject to

4 1 approval by the department. The special plate fees collected
4 2 by the director under subsection 12, paragraph "a", from the
4 3 issuance and annual validation of letter-number designated and
4 4 personalized Pearl Harbor plates shall be paid monthly to the
4 5 treasurer of state and credited to the road use tax fund.
4 6 Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior to the crediting of
4 7 revenues to the road use tax fund under section 423.43,
4 8 subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of state shall
4 9 transfer monthly from those revenues to the veterans license
4 10 fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount of the special
4 11 fees collected in the previous month for Pearl Harbor plates.

4 12 18. PURPLE HEART SPECIAL PLATES. An owner referred to in
4 13 subsection 12 who was awarded a purple heart medal by the
4 14 United States government for wounds received in military or
4 15 naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States may,
4 16 upon written application to the department and presentation of
4 17 satisfactory proof of the award of the purple heart medal,
4 18 order special registration plates with a purple heart
4 19 processed emblem. The design of the emblem shall include a

4 20 representation of a purple heart medal and ribbon. The
4 21 application is subject to approval by the department in
4 22 consultation with the adjutant general. The special plate
4 23 fees collected by the director under subsection 12, paragraph
4 24 "a", from the issuance and annual validation of letter=number
4 25 designated and personalized purple heart plates shall be paid
4 26 monthly to the treasurer of state and credited to the road use
4 27 tax fund. Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior to the
4 28 crediting of revenues to the road use tax fund under section
4 29 423.43, subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of state
4 30 shall transfer monthly from those revenues to the veterans
4 31 license fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount of the
4 32 special fees collected in the previous month for purple heart
4 33 plates.

4 34 19. UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES RETIRED SPECIAL PLATES. An
4 35 owner referred to in subsection 12 who is a retired member of
5 1 the United States armed forces may, upon written application
5 2 to the department and upon presentation of satisfactory proof
5 3 of membership, order special registration plates with a United
5 4 States armed forces retired processed emblem. The emblem
5 5 shall be designed by the department in consultation with
5 6 service organizations. The application is subject to approval
5 7 by the department. For purposes of this subsection, a person
5 8 is considered to be retired if the person is recognized by the
5 9 United States armed forces as retired from the United States
5 10 armed forces. The special plate fees collected by the
5 11 director under subsection 12, paragraph "a", from the issuance
5 12 and annual validation of letter=number designated and
5 13 personalized armed forces retired plates shall be paid monthly
5 14 to the treasurer of state and credited to the road use tax
5 15 fund. Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior to the
5 16 crediting of revenues to the road use tax fund under section
5 17 423.43, subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of state
5 18 shall transfer monthly from those revenues to the veterans
5 19 license fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount of the
5 20 special fees collected in the previous month for armed forces
5 21 retired plates.

5 22 20. SILVER OR BRONZE STAR PLATES. An owner referred to in
5 23 subsection 12 who was awarded a silver or a bronze star by the
5 24 United States government, may, upon written application to the
5 25 department and presentation of satisfactory proof of the award
5 26 of the silver or bronze star, order special registration
5 27 plates with a silver or bronze star processed emblem. The
5 28 emblem shall be designed by the department in consultation
5 29 with the adjutant general. The special plate fees collected
5 30 by the director under subsection 12, paragraph "a", from the
5 31 issuance and annual validation of letter=number designated and
5 32 personalized silver star and bronze star plates shall be paid
5 33 monthly to the treasurer of state and credited to the road use
5 34 tax fund. Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior to the
5 35 crediting of revenues to the road use tax fund under section
6 1 423.43, subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of state
6 2 shall transfer monthly from those revenues to the veterans
6 3 license fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount of the
6 4 special fees collected in the previous month for silver star
6 5 and bronze star plates.

6 6 Sec. 5. Section 321.34, Code 2007, is amended by adding
6 7 the following new subsections:

6 8 NEW SUBSECTION. 20A. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, NAVY, OR AIR
6 9 FORCE CROSS PLATES. An owner referred to in subsection 12 who
6 10 was awarded a distinguished service cross, a navy cross, or an
6 11 air force cross by the United States government may, upon
6 12 written application to the department and presentation of
6 13 satisfactory proof of the award, order special registration
6 14 plates with a distinguished service cross, navy cross, or air
6 15 force cross processed emblem. The emblem shall be designed by
6 16 the department in consultation with the adjutant general. The
6 17 special plate fees collected by the director under subsection
6 18 12, paragraph "a", from the issuance and annual validation of
6 19 letter=number designated and personalized distinguished
6 20 service cross, navy cross, and air force cross plates shall be
6 21 paid monthly to the treasurer of state and credited to the
6 22 road use tax fund. Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior
6 23 to the crediting of revenues to the road use tax fund under
6 24 section 423.43, subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of
6 25 state shall transfer monthly from those revenues to the
6 26 veterans license fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount
6 27 of the special fees collected in the previous month for
6 28 distinguished service cross, navy cross, and air force cross
6 29 plates.

6 30 NEW SUBSECTION. 20B. SOLDIER'S, SAILOR'S, OR AIRMAN'S

6 31 MEDAL PLATES. An owner referred to in subsection 12 who was
6 32 awarded a soldier's medal, a sailor's medal, or an airman's
6 33 medal by the United States government may, upon written
6 34 application to the department and presentation of satisfactory
6 35 proof of the award, order special registration plates with a
7 1 soldier's medal, sailor's medal, or airman's medal processed
7 2 emblem. The emblem shall be designed by the department in
7 3 consultation with the adjutant general. The special plate
7 4 fees collected by the director under subsection 12, paragraph
7 5 "a", from the issuance and annual validation of letter=number
7 6 designated and personalized soldier's medal, sailor's medal,
7 7 and airman's medal plates shall be paid monthly to the
7 8 treasurer of state and credited to the road use tax fund.
7 9 Notwithstanding section 423.43, and prior to the crediting of
7 10 revenues to the road use tax fund under section 423.43,
7 11 subsection 1, paragraph "b", the treasurer of state shall
7 12 transfer monthly from those revenues to the veterans license
7 13 fee fund created in section 35A.11 the amount of the special
7 14 fees collected in the previous month for soldier's medal,
7 15 sailor's medal, and airman's medal plates.

7 16 NEW SUBSECTION. 24. GOLD STAR PLATES. An owner referred
7 17 to in subsection 12 who is the surviving spouse or surviving
7 18 parent of a deceased member of the United States armed forces
7 19 who died during a time of military conflict may order special
7 20 registration plates bearing a gold star emblem upon written
7 21 application to the department accompanied by satisfactory
7 22 supporting documentation as determined by the department. The
7 23 gold star emblem shall be designed by the department in
7 24 cooperation with the commission of veterans affairs. Letter
7 25 number designated gold star plates shall be issued at no
7 26 charge and shall be validated annually by the county treasurer
7 27 upon payment of the regular annual registration fee. The fee
7 28 for issuance of personalized gold star plates is twenty=five
7 29 dollars, and the annual fee for personalized gold star plates
7 30 is five dollars, which is in addition to the regular annual
7 31 registration fee.

7 32 Sec. 6. Section 321.166, subsections 2 and 9, Code 2007,
7 33 are amended to read as follows:

7 34 2. Every registration plate or pair of plates shall
7 35 display a registration plate number which shall consist of
8 1 alphabetical or numerical characters or a combination thereof
8 2 and the name of this state, which may be abbreviated. Every
8 3 registration plate issued by the county treasurer shall
8 4 display the name of the county, including any plate issued
8 5 pursuant to section 321.34, except Pearl Harbor and purple
8 6 heart registration plates issued prior to January 1, 1997, and
8 7 collegiate, fire fighter, and ~~congressional~~ medal of honor
8 8 registration plates. Special truck registration plates shall
8 9 display the word "special".

8 10 9. Special registration plates issued pursuant to section
8 11 321.34 beginning January 1, 1997, other than ~~congressional~~
8 12 medal of honor, collegiate, fire fighter, and natural
8 13 resources registration plates, shall be consistent with the
8 14 design and color of regular registration plates but shall
8 15 provide a space on a portion of the plate for the purpose of
8 16 allowing the placement of a distinguishing processed emblem.
8 17 Special registration plates shall also comply with the
8 18 requirements for regular registration plates as provided in
8 19 this section to the extent the requirements are consistent
8 20 with the section authorizing a particular special vehicle
8 21 registration plate.

8 22 EXPLANATION

8 23 This bill requires the department of transportation to make
8 24 available special registration plates for recipients of the
8 25 distinguished service cross, the navy cross, the air force
8 26 cross, the soldier's medal, the sailor's medal, and the
8 27 airman's medal. Emblems for the plates shall be designed by
8 28 the department in consultation with the adjutant general.

8 29 The bill directs the treasurer of state to credit fees from
8 30 the sale of the new special plates and the existing special
8 31 national guard, Pearl Harbor veteran, purple heart, armed
8 32 forces retired, bronze star, and silver star plates to the
8 33 veterans license fee fund. The plates are all subject to a
8 34 special initial fee of \$25 and are renewed annually for a
8 35 special fee of \$5 in addition to the regular annual

9 1 registration fee. Currently, the special fees from the
9 2 existing plates are deposited in the road use tax fund.

9 3 The bill also establishes a new special motor vehicle
9 4 registration plate to be issued to a surviving spouse or
9 5 surviving parent of a deceased member of the United States
9 6 armed forces who died during a time of military conflict. The

9 7 special gold star registration plates shall be issued at no
9 8 charge to the applicant and renewed upon payment of the annual
9 9 registration fees for the vehicle. Personalized gold star
9 10 plates shall be issued for a fee of \$25 and renewed upon
9 11 payment of the annual registration fees for the vehicle plus a
9 12 \$5 personalized plate renewal fee.
9 13 The bill makes corrective amendments to references to the
9 14 medal of honor.
9 15 LSB 2144XS 82
9 16 dea:nh/je/5.1